

is a privilege which can never be overestimated.

But prayer is more than a privilege; it is a law, a divinely instituted law of God's kingdom among men. Just as God has instituted certain laws by which He works in the realm of nature, so he has instituted certain laws by which he works his spiritual kingdom. And as in nature certain results are produced by the operation of certain divinely established laws, so in the realm of spiritual things God has ordained that certain results depend upon the operation of certain laws. Prayer is one of the laws by which God works among men, and by which He produces spiritual results in their hearts and lives. Where this law is not in operation there is an absence of spiritual blessings and results. As breathing is a law of our physical being, so prayer is a law of our spiritual being, and we cannot live spiritually without prayer. Montgomery announces a great truth when he wrote:

"Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air."

By the operation of this law of prayer in the individual Christian the vital forces of his spiritual being are nourished and intensified, and the man grows in spiritual stature and power. The moment a man ceases to pray, and prayer becomes no longer a spiritual law in his life, that moment he begins to lose divine vitality and declines into a weak and sickly Christian.

Show Me the Way

Show me the way that leads to the true life.

I do not care what tempests may assail me,

I shall be given courage for the strife,

I know my strength will not desert or fail me;

I know that I shall conquer in the fray:

Show me the way.

Show me the way up to a higher plane,

Where body shall be servant to the soul.

I do not care what tides of woe or pain

Across my life their angry waves may roll,

If I but reach the end I seek some day:

Show me the way.

Show me the way, and let me bravely climb

Above the grievings for unworthy treasures;

Above all sorrow that finds balm in time—

Above small triumphs or belittling pleasures;

Up to those heights where these things seem child's play.

Show me the way.

Show me the way to that calm, perfect peace

Which springs from an inward consciousness of right;

To where all conflicts with the flesh shall cease,

And self shall radiate with the spirit's light.

Tho' hard the journey and the strife, I pray

Show me the way.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

The Power of Prayer

J. R. Miller.

God has put it in our power to help each other in many ways, sometimes by deeds that lift away burdens, sometimes by words that inspire courage and strength, sometimes by sympathy that halves sorrow. But there is no other way in which we can serve others so wisely, so effectively, so Divinely, as by intercession.

Our hands are clumsy and awkward, and oftentimes hurt the life we should heal with our touch or strengthen or uphold with our strength; but in prayer we can reach our friend thru God, and his hand is infinitely gentle and never hurts a life. We lack wisdom and oftentimes the help we give is untimely or unwise. We lift burdens that God wants our friend to carry. We make the way easy for him when God has made it hard for his own good, for the development of his powers. We save our friend from hardship or self-denial, or hold him back from perilous duty or exhausting service, when these are the very paths in which God would lead him—the paths to honor, to larger usefulness, to nobler life.

Oftentimes our love is shortsighted. We think we are helping our friend when really we are hindering him in the things that most deeply concern his life. But we can pray and ask God to help him, not in our way, but in his own way, and his help is never unwise nor untimely. He never lifts a load which our friend will be the better for carrying. He never does things for him which he had better be left to do for himself, nor spares him hardness or suffering which will make him more a man.

The Mission Field

From the National Caltpal

Brother Cassel, wife and daughter, May, were with us over last Sunday. We enjoyed their visit very much. Brother Cassel talked for us both morning and evening and gave our people many helpful truths.

On Monday, April 2, settlement was made for the church property, and on the same evening was held our first love feast in the new church home, and I can truly say that "Heaven came down our souls to greet." The house was well filled, altho no notice had been given, excepting on Sunday at the regular services. We would like to have given notice thru the EVANGELIST but did not decide to have the feast then until a very short time before. And just here let me return our most sincere thanks to all who have in any way contributed towards this cause. Let me assure you that your interest and assistance has been much appreciated and the "First Brethren church" of Washington, D. C., now join your unworthy servant in this expression of gratitude; should like to particularize but can not at present.

On last Sunday morning Brother Cassel said, "Your position is by no means an enviable one; the eyes of the entire brotherhood are now fixed on you," etc. Beloved brethren, we feel something at least of the force of that remark and the responsibility that it refers to, but relying upon the grace and wisdom of our heavenly Father and the prayers of his dear children, we press on in the name of our blessed Lord, knowing that He that hath begun this good work and brought it thus far, will continue with us to the end.

We still rejoice at the many evidences of God's presence in the work, and especially do we feel grateful for the spirit of union and peace and harmony that has characterized this work from the beginning and seems to be manifested more and more as we go on. In one or two instances the devil did his utmost to bring in discord and his designing agents earnestly sought to destroy the peace of God in the mission. Now let me tell you about the prayer that went up. "Lord, either convert or remove them!" Thank God there are those who still believe that their God is bigger than the devil, and like little children, are willing to confide in Him in this simple way. Does some one begin to discourage the work either by wilful act, or by indifference, inactivity, sowing seeds of discord? What is to be done? Where is the remedy? Let those who are living in constant communion with God—those who do not sin wilfully against Him—let such come together and pray the "prayer of faith" at such times, and they will find that they still have a God that is living!

I John 4:4; 5:14. Many belong to that class who refuse to believe I John 2:15 and they "say their prayers," too, and may be considered "good church members," but they seem to wonder why God does not answer their prayers, not realizing that theirs is the "god of this world."

The true and living God has not promised to answer the prayers of worldly-minded people, no matter if they are church members and have been baptized, observed the ordinances, etc. We have much more we would like to say but must close for the present, still asking the prayers of all who live to serve God with pure hearts and clean lives.

W. M. LYON.

The Sunday School

LESSON 4—APRIL 22, 1900

The Centurion's Servant Healed—Luke 7:1-10

Golden Text.—Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.—Psalm 105:13.

Lesson Thought.—A living faith in the Lord Jesus brings to us the richest temporal and spiritual blessings.

Time.—The events of this lesson took place immediately after the Sermon on the Mount, summer A. D. 28.

Place.—Capernaum, on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Persons.—John the Baptist was now in prison at Castle Macherus.

Home Readings

Luke 7:1-10; Luke 4:33-44; John 4:46-54; Mark 9:17-27; Matt. 9:27-31; John 20:24-31; Matt. 8:5-13.

Lesson Text

1 After he had ended all his sayings in the ears of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick and at the point of death.

3 And when he heard concerning Jesus, he sent unto him elders of the Jews, asking him that he would come and save his servant.

4 And they, when they came to Jesus, besought